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MISS UNIVERSE CANADA CONTESTANT CALLS ON TRUMP TO ELIMINATE RULE BARRING TRANSGENDER WOMEN FROM COMPETING IN BEAUTY PAGEANT

PAGE 8



CALGARY

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Wednesday, April 4, 2012



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Path of DESTRUCTION

Homes in Lancaster, Texas, lie destroyed by a tornado. Tornadoes tore through the Dallas area Tuesday, peeling roofs off homes, tossing big-rig trucks into the air and leaving flattened tractor-trailers strewn along highways and parking lots.

KHAMPHA BOUAPHANH/THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court no place to fight parking ticket: Data

Review. Evaluation by parking-authority staff more likely to favour customer, statistics indicate



JEREMY NOLAÏS

jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Charged parking violators wanting their day in court face almost insurmountable odds, data suggests.

A few thousand city motorists go before a judge each year to protest a fine

issued by the Calgary Parking Authority, but less than 0.23 per cent — or one in 425 cases — see the violation overturned.

Contributing factors to the authority's successful conviction rate include diligent staff as well as photographic evidence with a recorded timing of the violation that comes courtesy of the automated ParkPlus system, suggested manager Troy McLeod.

"Our goal is really to achieve compliance," he added.

Accused parking violators do have another, more successful option in the

form of an administrative review. About 50 per cent of those claims resulted in the fine being overturned last year.

But it appears some residents remain unimpressed.

Local chef Jonathan Kennard filed for a review last year after receiving a violation ticket in his neighbourhood, even though he claims he holds a residential parking pass.

"I got a letter a few weeks later saying the officer doesn't agree, so my ticket still stands," he said. "I now have five or six — I don't even look at them anymore."

A buried past, uncovered

Looking to locate a grave? There may soon be an app for that. The city is working toward a guide to more than 120,000 interments

PAGE 3

Homeless take centre stage

From on the streets to off-Broadway: Members of Calgary's homeless community will perform in a New York production this summer

PAGE 4

Defending 'Dani-dollars'

The Wildrose leader has fought words on the campaign trail for opponents who criticized her petro-giveback promise

PAGE 6



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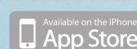
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Lack of snow to benefit roadwork

Infrequent flurries early on this year have allowed city snow-removal crews to save some cash, but the white stuff appears to be on its way again.

As of the end of February, \$9.6 million had been put towards winter road maintenance — roughly \$4 million less than what had been spent during the exact same period last year.

"That money ultimately will probably be used to augment other operations, such as pothole repairs, spring street-sweeping and cleanup," said city roads department spokesperson Sean Somers.

But snowplow crews and motorists alike may not be out of the woods yet, as Environment Canada has issued a winter-storm warning that could see up to 25 centimetres dumped on Calgary roads Wednesday afternoon.

Temperatures reached 16 C in the city Tuesday. Somers said it appears the mercury will remain relatively high despite the expected blizzard, adding it's unlikely the city will be forced to call a snow-parking ban.

"If I was a betting man, I wouldn't lay money on it," he said.

City council approved an overall snow-removal budget of \$34.7 million for this year.

Calgarians have also been asked to do their part in aiding the spring cleanup by phoning 311 to report potholes. Department estimates suggest 2,000 roadway issues will be addressed each week over the next few months.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

S.E. Calgary. Police arrest one in cocaine bust

On March 28, the Calgary RCMP Drug Section concluded an investigation in Ogden that resulted in the arrest of Kim Sann Lim, 25, of Calgary.

A one kilogram brick of cocaine was found during a vehicle stop, according to police, and a search warrant executed in the 7600 block of 22 Street S.E. yielded an additional two kilograms of cocaine.

Police say the cocaine has a street value of more than \$250,000. **METRO**



Cocaine seized by police.
COURTESY RCMP

Education. Board talks re: parents' views on fees

The Calgary Board of Education held court yesterday and the hot topic issue of school fees was first and foremost on everyone's agenda.

Giving an abridged presentation to the board of trustees, which the media received on Monday, Stormy Lake Consulting Group talked about how families feel about paying school fees.

Education board spokesperson Richard

Peter responded to the criticism from some of the board that they are not doing enough with the fee system.

"The first pencil we sharpen isn't to levy fees," said Peter.

"It's to do the work to fit as much money as possible to reduce the cost."

ERIC FRASER/FOR METRO



For more local news visit metronews.ca/calgary

City burial plots to enter the digital age

Development.

Initiative will see GPS tracking, possible smartphone app to help pinpoint more than 120,000 interments



JEREMY NOLAIS

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City staff are digging up the past in hopes of providing innovative access to tens of thousands of local graves.

Supt. Gary Daudlin with Calgary's cemeteries division said finishing touches are being put on software that will allow people to pinpoint specific burial plots via Calgary.ca, kiosks on site at the five city-owned cemeteries and even potentially a smartphone app.

Once developed, Daudlin's team will then embark on a three-year quest to ensure all information — some of it dating back more than 100 years

Smart cemeteries:

The City of Medicine Hat has already developed a smartphone app, rolled out in May, which allows residents to track burial plots using GPS at its Hillside Cemetery, according to representative Greg Johnson.

— regarding those buried in the city is accurate before making it available for public use.

"We want people to come to the cemetery.... It's a place to reflect, to come and actually interact," Daudlin said.

"There's lots of history and it really ties people back to their roots."

Approximately 1,200-1,400 interments are performed at City of Calgary cemeteries each week. Members of wrestling's Hart family and Col. James Macleod, a key police and political figure in Calgary's past, are among the more famous individuals buried in city plots.



Supt. Gary Daudlin and his team are working to provide an interactive guide for every city-owned grave in Calgary. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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NEWS

On the web

Trayvon images not approved

While vendors are profiting from Trayvon Martin merchandise, the teen's family has taken action to prevent offensive uses of his image. Watch the video at metronews.ca

Vaccine itching for approval

A new vaccine for poison sumac and poison oak is going to Phase 1 clinical trials later this year. More at metronews.ca

Mobile news



'Scout's honour' takes a new meaning as The Dog Scouts of America, a half-human, half-hound organization, goes about the business of doing good deeds. Scan the code for the story.



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Aerobatics. Mount Royal student soars at Red Bull Paper Wings competition

As a second-time champion in Aerobatics at the Red Bull Paper Wings competition, Addison Asuchak is not your average student.

Asuchak, 22, is currently in his fourth year at Mount Royal University studying general science with a minor in chemistry.

Born and raised in Airdrie, Asuchak always knew he wanted to build planes.

"I used to fill my mom's kitchen up with paper airplanes, so it's just a testament that you should stay with what you love, because it will take you somewhere."

Asuchak believes that he

won this year because of the unique tactics he used to grab the judges' attention.

"As it's the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Stampede this year, all I wore was cowboy underwear, leather chaps, spurs wrapped around my feet and the two cap guns sticking out of my underwear. I opened up the floor line dancing to Cadillac," he said.

After graduation, Asuchak plans on going back to school to study aerospace engineering. "I just want to build airplanes, and basically anything that moves."

MEGAN MAHONEY/FOR METRO



Addison Asuchak MEGAN MAHONEY/FOR METRO

Firearms offences. More charges for accused in Killam Mountie shooting

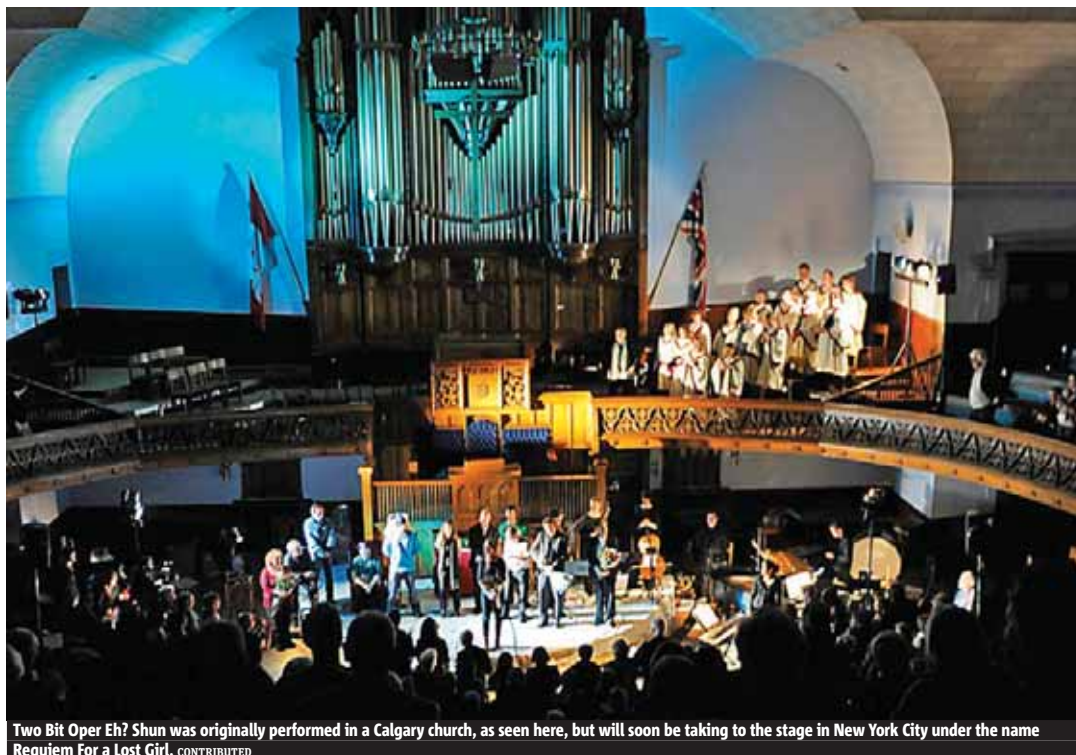
A man accused in the attempted murder of two Alberta RCMP officers is facing an additional 13 firearms offences.

Sawyer Clarke Robison appeared for a bail hearing Tuesday in Killam provincial court, but the judge has reserved decision until April 11. He was already charged with two counts of attempted murder.

Constables Sheldon Shah and Sid Gaudette were shot and wounded when they went to execute a search warrant on Robison's family farm near Killam on Feb. 7. Robison's uncle, Brad Clarke, was found dead in the home.

Robison was on the run for almost three days before he was arrested peacefully on a rural road in the area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Two Bit Oper Eh? Shun was originally performed in a Calgary church, as seen here, but will soon be taking to the stage in New York City under the name Requiem For a Lost Girl. CONTRIBUTED

Homeless to hit New York stage

Musical Theatre Festival. Calgary's homeless community take part in off-Broadway play to debut this summer



KATIE TURNER
Metro in Calgary

Members of Calgary's homeless community will be tak-

ing to the New York stage this summer, performing in an off-Broadway production they helped create.

Originally performed in January 2010 under the title Two Bit Oper Eh? Shun, the now-titled Requiem For a Lost Girl was selected as a special event for the New York Musical Theatre Festival this summer.

Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre clients contributed original poems, songs and first-hand stories to the production's co-producer and creator

Onalea Gilbertson, who crafted the story of a young woman lost to homelessness.

Eight clients at the DI, including Max Ciesielski, performed in the chorus during the show's debut and have been invited to perform three shows in New York City this July.

"We were just stunned," said Ciesielski. "It's a huge honour."

Gilbertson, who is currently in NYC, is working with other shelters to involve homeless people in New York

in the production.

"The piece was created to shine a light in the dark corner of society that is homelessness," she said.

"It's something that really needs to be talked about."

With a background in theatre as a set designer and builder, Ciesielski said he knows his 10-day stint in New York is a big deal.

"I probably know maybe half a dozen people who have done off-Broadway after all those years," he said. "Personally, it's a big step."

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On the election trail

Health

A coalition of 15 groups wants the Alberta government to put money into a wellness fund aimed at preventing fatal diseases.

The coalition believes most voters would support spending up to \$160 million a year to prevent chronic cardiovascular and lung disease, diabetes and cancer.

The coalition includes the Alberta Public Health Association, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Business

Calgary's business community is jumping into the provincial election campaign with a warning about tax rates.

The Chamber of Commerce says the party that wins the April 23 vote should cut the small-business tax rate from three per cent to two per cent.

Hustings

Premier Alison Redford says Medicine Hat is the best example of how her party is growing the province.

Redford says her party is meeting the needs of the city with projects such as hospitals, highway upgrades and a new school.

She says seniors will benefit from funding for 90 affordable living spaces.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



How to get a-head in the election race? PC Leader Alison Redford tries on a hat during a campaign stop in Medicine Hat on Tuesday. Members of Medicine Hat's Red Hat Society look on.

IAN SORESEN/MEDICINE HAT NEWS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smith's 'Dani-dollars' zinger: Explain yourselves, rivals told

That petro-giveback. Wildrose leader demands to know what other leaders will do with a surplus

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith is challenging opponents who don't like her "Dani-

dollars" petro-giveback to explain how they'll use any future budget surpluses.

"Once you start having surpluses, you have to have some kind of idea what you want to do with those surpluses," Smith said Tuesday.

Smith defended her promise to rebate an anticipated \$300 to Albertans as a portion of future budget surpluses.

Opponents have ridiculed the idea, which is actually patterned on a \$400-a-head rebate under former Progressive Conservative premier Ralph Klein in 2005.

Premier Alison Redford noted Wildrose is already promising to balance the budget and grow the Heritage Savings Trust Fund while not hiking taxes, not increas-

ing oil royalties and returning money to parents for school fees, sports and arts programs.

Redford has said she fears it will result in deep cuts to core services in education and health programs.

NDP Leader Brian Mason agreed with Redford, adding Wildrose can't keep its commitment if it doesn't raise

royalties on the oilsands.

"The Wildrose numbers just don't add up," Mason told a news conference in Edmonton to release his party's fiscal plan.

"You can't give away money you don't collect because your royalties are too low. They will have to cut services that we all need to buy votes now."

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Gunman was taunted before brutal killing spree: Police



Daniel Sim and his sister Lydia Sim are reported to be among the seven killed during Monday's shooting in Oakland, Calif. DANIEL SIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Premeditated attack. South Korean nursing student was allegedly teased about his poor English skills prior to murderous rampage

A nursing student expelled from a small Christian university and upset about being teased over his poor English skills opened fire at the school, going from room to room in a rampage that left six students and a secretary dead, police said Tuesday.

One L. Goh, 43, forced the secretary into a classroom at Oikos University in Oakland on Monday, told people to line up and, when some didn't co-operate, began his shooting spree, police Chief Howard Jordan said.

"It's very, very sad," Jordan said. "We have seven people who didn't deserve to die and three others wounded because (of) someone who couldn't deal with the pressures of life."

Goh, a South Korea native who became a U.S. citizen, was expelled in January for behavioural problems from the small private school of fewer than 100 students, Jordan said. The chief said Goh had anger-management issues with other students.

Jordan said Goh appeared to have been planning the attack for several weeks.

Goh was upset with ad-

ministrators and several students at the college, which an official said offered classes in Korean and English and was founded to help Korean immigrants adjust to a new country and find careers in nursing and ministry.

"They disrespected him, laughed at him," Jordan said. "They made fun of his lack of English-speaking skills."

Jordan said Goh tried to find a female administrator Monday and began shooting when he learned she wasn't there. The victims, who range in age from 21 to 40, were from various countries, including Nigeria, Nepal and the Philippines.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The victims

Authorities have not released the identities of the seven people killed in Monday's shooting.

- School secretary Kathleen Ping is believed to be among the first victims of the shooting, according to her family.
- The three surviving shooting victims were all released from Highland Hospital by Monday night, according to hospital officials. They would not release any details on the nature of the injuries treated.

Alone in the cockpit

Elderly passenger lands runaway plane safely

An elderly woman took control of a small plane from her unconscious husband that was dangerously low on fuel and landed it on a runway at a small north-eastern Wisconsin airport, the facility's director said Tuesday.

Helen Collins, 80, had

some flight training years ago but was not familiar with the controls of the Cessna twin-engine plane on Monday evening when her husband passed out, said Keith Kasbohm, director of Cherryland Airport near Sturgeon Bay.

Another pilot took to the skies to guide Collins to the ground, but she had to land the aircraft herself.

"She was on her last attempt to get lined up with the runway," Kasbohm said. "She reported one engine was sputtering on that last attempt to land. We were

all watching and knew she had to do it."

Collins' 81-year-old husband, John, was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

Helen Collins had called 911 from the Cessna, prompting air-traffic controllers in Green Bay to alert Kasbohm.

"The first thing I thought of is 'We have to find someone to help talk this woman down,'" he said.

Kasbohm called Robert Vuksanovic, a pilot who lived just a mile from the airport.

Vuksanovic jumped in

another plane owned by the Collins' and flew up to meet the Cessna while instructing the novice on the radio.

Kasbohm described Collins as "cool, calm and collected on the radio" as the aircraft made a hard landing and skidded about 1,000 feet before coming to rest.

"She must have flown around here about 10 times," said Torry Lautenbach, whose property is next to the airport. "She did a really good job (landing the plane). It was amazing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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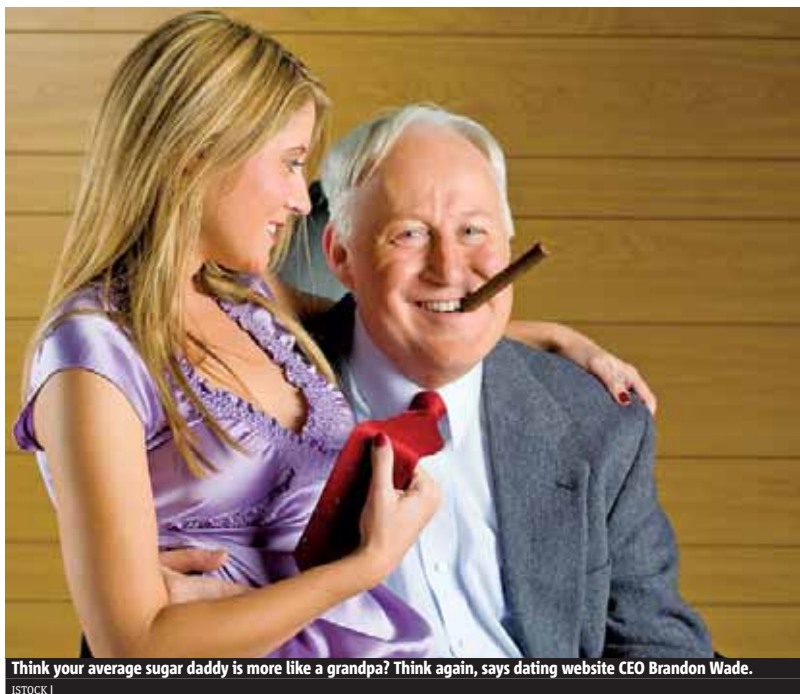
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Think your average sugar daddy is more like a grandpa? Think again, says dating website CEO Brandon Wade.

ISTOCK

Calgary's numbers

The study shows Calgary places second:

- In Calgary, 1.71 in every 1,000 men is a sugar daddy.

- Locally, 41.7 per cent are married, slightly higher than the national average.

- Their average income is \$238,687.

- Their net worth is about \$4.4 million.

- A Calgary sugar daddy spends \$4,209 a month on his sugar baby.

Toronto crowned 'sugar daddy' capital of Canada

Five-year study.

Calgary places second in number of 'sugar daddies' per capita, just ahead of Vancouver

DELIA MACPHERSON

For Metro in Toronto

Looking for someone to take you out on the town? Fly you around the world and pamper you to your heart's desire? Your best chance of finding that is in Toronto.

A recent five-year study shows that Toronto has the highest number of "sugar daddies" per capita in Canada. Calgary came in second, according to the study, while Vancouver placed third.

Seekingarrangement.com, an online dating site

that pairs wealthy men with women interested in dating them, conducted the study with data from the Canadian census.

So what is a "sugar daddy?" The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as "a rich older man who lavishes gifts on a young woman in return for her company or sexual favours."

But Brandon Wade, founder and CEO of the website behind the study, says the negative stereotypes surrounding sugar daddies aren't true.

"If you look at the stats, sugar daddies are in their late 30s, early 40s," Wade says.

"Despite the stereotype, the 'real' sugar daddy is much younger, very generous and wealthy."

Wade claims women want to be spoiled and pampered. Using a site like his is a way for them to weed

How many are married?

38.9

The percentage of Canadian sugar daddies who are married. Brandon Wade says married sugar daddies are often in a sexless marriage and the financial ramifications of a divorce make for a sticky situation. Most wives have no idea their husband is a sugar daddy.

out the unemployed, lazy men from the wealthy and successful men out there.

And wealthy they are. Wade says the average sugar daddy is worth between \$4 million and \$5 million, with an annual income of about \$200,000.

Women are lining up for a sugar daddy, with 10 women for every one daddy.

"People might ask, 'Doesn't he just want sex?' All men at the end of the day want sex," Wade says.

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JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
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The end is near.

Now that I've got your attention, it's more like a near-miss.

On April 1, an asteroid the size of a 747 missed slamming into Earth at roughly 48,000

km/h when it zipped between the Earth and the moon, the cosmic equivalent of a hair's breadth.

Even though it happened on April Fool's Day, I'm not foolin'.

And as I write, there's another one coming.

If you're reading this, we've dodged a bullet called 2012 FA57, which was scheduled to fly past the neighbourhood just beyond the orbit of the moon ... today.

It turns out these giant space rocks are whizzing around our heads all the time. The April Fool asteroid followed in the wake

of one the size of a school bus and another the size of a car last week. They may be relatively small, but their size makes them no less scary.

According to Marshall Brain of HowStuffWorks, if an asteroid the size of a house crashed into the planet, it would have the energy of a bomb equivalent to the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima. A 747-sized rock

is bigger than a house and would have the impact of a much, much larger H-bomb.

Grim news. And you have to believe stuff that comes from a guy named Marshall Brain.

These so-called little shots are tricky, precisely because they are small enough to elude detection until it's too late to do anything about them. But they are nothing compared to the threat of Apophis, which is scheduled to narrowly miss Earth on — get this — Friday the 13th, 2029. Apophis is named after the Egyptian god of darkness and chaos, one bad dude. A direct hit would unleash the energy of 65,000 nukes, according to NASA.

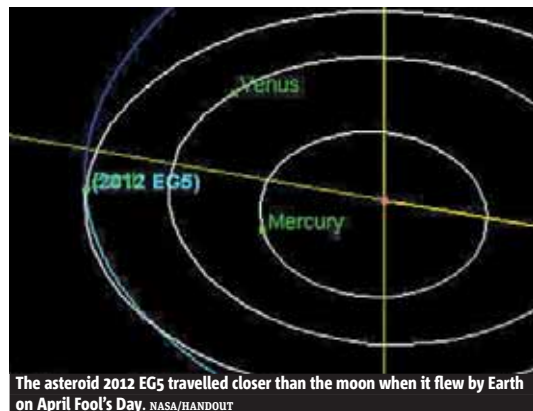
And if it misses on Friday the 13th, 2029, it gets another chance exactly seven years later on a Friday the 13th, 2036!

So the end could indeed be near. Admittedly, it's a long shot, but at one in 48,000 it's still greater than your chance of getting killed in a plane crash, which is one in 355,000.

Fortunately, there's a stalwart band of scientists at NASA's Near-Earth Object Program who do nothing but watch the skies. They can see Apophis coming a long way off because it's 320 metres across. But they didn't discover the one that just missed until March 13, which is too late, baby. It will take two years to mount an effort to discourage an asteroid from burying its head into the bosom of Mother Earth.

So, that guy in the cartoon with "Repent! The End is Near!" sign and the haunted look? He's not so far off the beam.

Good thing you've led a blameless life to date, so there's nothing to worry about.



Mom, not in front of everyone!



BARBARA SCHEER/WUPPERTAL ZOO

Say hi

Polar bear cub makes world debut

WUPPERTAL, GERMANY. She may be less than three months old but in Germany this polar bear cub is already a big celebrity. This is Anori — pictured with her mother Vilma — who has just made her first public appearance. The little bear seemed completely at ease in her outdoor pen, despite onlookers and flashing cameras. **METRO**

Time to shine

In her, they see brother Knut

CELEBRITY. What makes this polar bear so famous? Anori shares a father with Knut, a cub that won the world's affection after his mother rejected him as a baby and he was raised by zookeepers. Such was Knut's acclaim that he even starred in his own film, *Knut & Friends*, which went on to win rave reviews worldwide. **METRO**



Anori the polar bear

Disappearing act

25,000

polar bears are left in the world, according to conservation group Polar Bears International. The disappearance of sea ice has forced polar bears away from their usual feeding grounds. The Arctic summer sea ice will vanish by 2030, experts claim.



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Does former RIM chief Jim Balsillie's retiring make you more optimistic about the BlackBerry maker?

75%
YES, THE
COMPANY CAN
REBUILD NOW

25%
NO, IT'S
STILL
DOOMED

Twitter

@JleeScheper:

It's +16 and there's a winter storm warning in effect....what the eff mother nature...only in calgary #YYC

@joeybrunel:

Snow on the way for #tyyc on Wednesday. I better stock up on beer and chips. #snowday

@kasmcrae:

A storm warning?? Cancel the car

wash... #whatcolourismycar #tyyc

@BrodeurNJ30:

I'm a firm believer that if the bus only has a few ppl on it you do NOT need to sit next to someone. #PleaseMoveOver #tyyc

@sprusina:

The weather gods really hate me. That's what I get for going on about the wonderful #tyyc spring weather. I'm shaking my first now.

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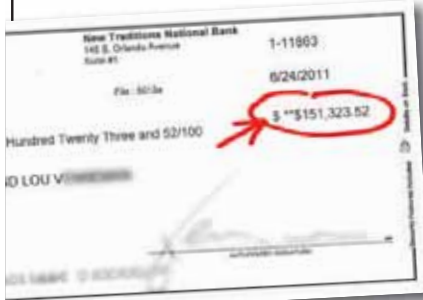
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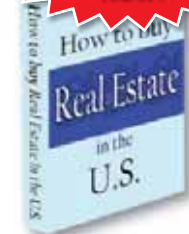
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The Rolling Stones with Mick Jagger, left, Ronnie Wood, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards on April 2, 2008 in London, England GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES

Why we love the Stones

The beat goes on.
This month marks the golden jubilee of the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band

PAT
HEALY
scene@metronews.ca

As many wonder how Keith Richards has even lived this long, we give you 15 reasons to love the Stones, the band that's existed for half a century.

1. Jagger/Richards: It really all comes down to this: It's an artistic tug-of-war between words (Mick) and music (Keef), sex (Mick) and drugs (Keef), and every negative/positive charge that this songwriting partnership represents.

2. Brian Jones: By all accounts

Jones founded and named the band, though the role of the second guitarist and multi-instrumentalist diminished progressively as he got more into drugs and less into fame. Mick and Keith fired him in June of 1969 and a month later he was found dead at the bottom of his swimming pool, only adding to the dark, mysterious aura of the Stones.

3. Charlie Watts: The drummer with the stoic face has not only been keeping the beat for the band for 50 years, but he has reportedly been keeping the faith with his wife of 47 years. Only after seeing the multiple dirty documentaries of the Stones' 1970s tours, does one realize how amazing this accomplishment is.

4. Mick Taylor: The guitarist joined the band at age 20 in 1969 and was only a Rolling Stone for five years and six albums, a period which was arguably the band's best.

5. Ronnie Wood: After serving as Rod Stewart's foil in The Faces, he replaced Taylor in 1975. He is the longest-reigning second guitarist, and the guitarist who looks the second-best with a guitar hanging on his bottom lip.

6. Bill Wyman: No, he was never smiling when the camera zoomed in on him in the videos, but there's something so weirdly likable about Wyman as the bassist.

7. Darryl Jones: Jones came on the scene almost 20 years ago (!) Yes, it's been that long since Bill Wyman left the band.

8. Anybody else who has ever played with the band: The Stones

Reasons to love the Stones

#9

Mick's dancing.

knew how to bring in guests, from the London Bach Choir on You Can't Always Get What You Want to Merry Clayton's killer singing on Gimme Shelter to sax man Bobby Keys on Exile on Main Street to the frequent keyboard guest spots by Billy Preston, Nicky Hopkins and Ian Stewart.

10. The name: No, it didn't come from Dylan's Like a Rolling Stone, although the guys did record that song in the '90s. It came from Muddy Waters' 1950 song, Rollin' Stone.

11. The logo: Whether or not it's based on Mick's mouth doesn't matter. It's red and juicy and it has absolutely nothing to do with a stone that's rolling, but it has everything to do with rock 'n' roll.

12. Andrew Loog Oldham: If it weren't for the Stones' manager and producer in the early years, the Stones might have stayed a relatively clean cut

wannabe Beatles act.

13. (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction: Keef historically recorded this guitar figure before passing out, and went back to listen the next day and amongst the documents of his snoring, heard this amazing elementary riff.

14. The comma in the title, Paint It, Black

15. Ruby Tuesday: Try to forget that it's the name of an American chain restaurant and listen to the song like it's the first time you've ever heard it. Holy amazingsness! That buzzing cello, that bassy tuba, the beautiful recorder, the deep low notes that Mick hits in the verses!

WE ACTUALLY CAME UP WITH MORE REASONS TO LOVE THE STONES. YOU CAN READ THE COMPLETE LIST AND WATCH SOME VIDEOS OF THE BAND AT METRONEWS.CA/FEATURES



2

SCENE

Scene in brief

More downward-facing dogs for Baldwin?

Alec Baldwin is giving marriage another shot. The actor popped the question over the weekend to his 28-year-old yoga instructor girlfriend, Hilario Thomas, whom he started dating last year. His publicist Matthew Hiltzik made the engagement announcement over Twitter. Baldwin, who once starred in a film called The Marrying Man, turns 54 on Tuesday and is an engagement, says Hiltzik, is a "great way to celebrate!" Baldwin was previously married to Kim Basinger. They have a daughter together named Ireland. He published a book in 2008 called A Promise to Ourselves about his personal experience dealing with divorce and his battle with Basinger over custody of their daughter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web



Luck creative duo defend safety of racing drama halted after three horse deaths; a 'bitter' end

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A century-long Titanic obsession



Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, in a scene from the 3D version of *The Titanic*. PARAMOUNT PICTURES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unsinkable fascination.

Filmmakers have been inspired by the 'ship of dreams' ever since she went to her watery grave



IN
FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

As the 100th anniversary of the ill-fated maiden voyage of the *Titanic* approaches, there are no shortages of cinematic ways to pay tribute to one of the most famous disasters of the 20th century. This weekend, James Cameron's *Titanic* sets sail again in theatres, this voyage in 3D. The story of Jack and Rose and their unsinkable love may be the best known of all the big boat movies, but it isn't the only one.

The first films about the sinking were made within a year of the event; 1912 saw three 10-minute films released to quench audience's

Propaganda film

Nazis also cashed in on the *Titanic*

Even Hitler had a hand in making a *Titanic* film. 1943's *S.O.S. Titanic* was a

propaganda film suggesting British incompetence was to blame for the disaster.

As water funnels into the ship, Captain Smith says, "See if you can find any German people on board. They'll know how to save the ship."

thirst for *Titanic* news. The most famous of the movies featured an actual *Titanic* survivor.

Saved from the *Titanic* starred Dorothy Gibson, an actress who was also a first class passenger on the ship. Premiering on May 14, 1912, (just 29 days after the *Titanic* sank) the movie has Ms. Gibson recalling her experiences as a passenger, while wearing the same dress she had worn when the ship went down.

Cut to 1929. British International Pictures was forced to release their epic film on the *Titanic* under the name *The Atlantic* when White Star Line threatened legal action. Seems the *Titanic*'s owner was actively trying to dissuade producers from

cashing in on the *Titanic* disaster.

The next mention of the doomed ship on film came in 1933 in the best picture winner *Cavalcade*. In its most famous scene, newlyweds embark on their honeymoon cruise. Standing on the deck they discuss their plans as the ship pulls out of dock. Soon it's revealed they're standing in front of a life preserver embossed with the name *Titanic*.

Best of the bunch are *Titanic*, an all-star docu-drama headlined by Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Wagner, that debuted on April 14, 1953, exactly 41 years after the disaster and *A Night to Remember*, which is still regarded as the most accurate of all the *Titanic* films.

Sharability



easy

hard

Russell Brand gives up rights of home to Katy Perry



Russell Brand ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Russell Brand was apparently serious when he said he didn't want anything from Katy Perry in their divorce, as the British comedian has reportedly given Perry all the rights to the \$6.5 million Hollywood Hills home they purchased while married, according to TMZ.

"It's all part of the prop-

erty settlement agreed between Russell and Katy," a source says of their divorce proceedings.

Perry and Brand snatched up the eight-bedroom, nine-bathroom home six months before Brand filed for divorce.

They had not signed a prenuptial agreement.



Ashton Kutcher

Ashton Kutcher buys house before Bieber can

Ashton Kutcher has been enjoying his rented Hollywood Hills bachelor pad so much that he decided to buy it, according to TMZ.

So what spurred on the sudden decision?

Competition from Justin Bieber, who was reportedly eyeing the \$10.8 million

property.

"I had to buy the house because I thought he was going to buy it out from under me," Ashton jokes during an interview with Jimmy Kimmel.

"I was like, 'I don't want to lose this house.' He forced me to buy a house."

Lohan looking to move on from probation



Lindsay Lohan

With her formal probation behind her, Lindsay Lohan is looking to move on with her life, and to that end she's reportedly sworn off dating to focus on her acting career, according to TMZ.

"Lindsay wants to devote all her spare time to reading the script and getting Liz's persona down pat rather than focus on a new relationship," a source says of Lohan, who's set to star in an Elizabeth Taylor biopic.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Levi's Johnson does it again



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Levi Johnston, a high-school drop out who is famous for knocking up someone kind of famous from an infamous political family, is using his super sperm to get back into the news cycle.

It was announced yesterday that the 21-year-old is expecting a baby with

his Wasilla, Alaska school teacher girlfriend, Sunny Oglesby, 20.

TMZ.com reports that Oglesby is only around three-months pregnant and that Johnston is "so excited" about having a new baby out of wedlock.

This is most likely because Bristol Palin (along with her mom and dad) haven't been too accommodating about seeing his son Tripp.

I know Alaska is remote, but if Sarah Palin could see Russia from her house, how hard could it be for Johnston to spot a stack of Trojans at the Rite Aid?

Twitter



@ActuallyNPH

I wanna give my 3 millionth (!) follower something cool. How would one quantify that? Is there some sort of log?



@chriscolfer

When I cook it's pretty dangerous...



@Oprah

Anyone tried meditation? Keeps the peace inside yourself.



@SarahKSilverman

Adele's taught us that u don't have to be skinny to be a music star- u just have to be the most beautiful woman in the world ever



Rihanna

Rihanna looks to play Whitney Houston in biopic

Rihanna has her sights set on the role of a lifetime: playing Whitney Houston in a biopic about the late singer.

"That would be something that I would have to give my entire life to do, because I would really want to pull it off," she tells the Press Association. "My first song that I remember falling in love with was a Whitney Houston song: I Will Always Love You.

It was really inspiring, and it made me develop a passion for music, so really, she's partly responsible for me being here in this industry."

Of course, first there needs to be a movie to star in, and while producer Clive Davis was reportedly putting one together, his rep has shot down that rumor, saying, "There is no truth to this. Clive is not putting together a biopic."

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3

LIFE

Travel in brief

**Iceland
chills on
hotel rates**

Hotel rates in Iceland have dropped 12 per cent since 2010, making the country's capital Reykjavik an "affordable European hot spot," says Travel and Leisure magazine. "Iceland's price points aren't at their rock-bottom 2008 levels, but they're still low," says the magazine. Icelandair resumed seasonal service from Canada on March 28, with four flights a week from Toronto to Reykjavik until November. Seasonal flights from Halifax resume June 7 with up to three flights weekly through October. The city is among several European destinations that Travel and Leisure deems "affordable" due to lower prices for hotels, meals or other expenses. The list includes Berlin, Krakow, Dublin, Budapest, Lisbon and economically hard-pressed Greece.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the Web



Montreal's iron icons: wind-ing outdoor staircases win contest of local landmarks

The traveller of today



The most important aspect of a vacation for our readers is the ability to 'do nothing and relax.'

Poll. In Metro's worldwide survey, we asked you what's important when on vacation and here's what we found out

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The environment

Who said you were a thoughtless, tech-crazed urbanite? Although your number one answer when asked about your travel attitudes was "vacations to me mean doing nothing and relaxing," a close number two was that you take actions to "reduce the environmental impact" of your travelling.

Here's an idea: Choose a holiday with a difference. Why not travel to Costa Rica where you can surf, eat cheap sushi and save sea turtles? If you're more of a passive environmentalist, reduce your carbon footprint by making small changes like taking a train rather than a plane or staying in an eco resort and not

a big chain hotel. For more ideas head to ecotourism.org.

The web

There's a reason why half the travel agents in your neighbourhood have closed. More than half of you decide on a destination after having looked it up on the Internet. From there, 81 per cent will go on to plan their itinerary online.

Here's an idea: By now, you probably know what travel site offers the best fares, but we're partial to bing.com — a site we generally ignore. Their Farecaster technology predicts if a flight's cost may go up or down in a coming month.

Special offers

Although 34 per cent of those polled planned their summer vacation up to three months in advance, for many it's a last-minute decision based on what special offer is available at the time. Travel cost is a major issue (98 per cent considered it 'very important') but package deals allow you to leave with a set budget. Aside from the odd gift or splurge, you shouldn't



Try logging on for deals. More than half of our readers decide on their destinations using the Internet.

spend more than planned.

Here's an idea: Sign up for daily email alerts from websites that sell discount deals such as Groupon or Living Social or Save My Day (brought to you by Metro). Offers include anything from a cruise in the Mediterranean to a wine tasting in South Africa — often with spaces to fill.

City and Sunshine

All it seems readers want (well, 63 per cent of them) is sunshine and access to a beach. This doesn't mean



Cannes offers sun and fun.

they want to shut themselves off from the world on a desert island — 30 per cent can't bear to be away from the city for too long.

Here's an idea: Put two

and two together and travel to a sunny city on the coast. Istanbul, Cannes, Barcelona or Los Angeles — these are all cosmopolitan cities blessed with sunny weather and beautiful beaches.

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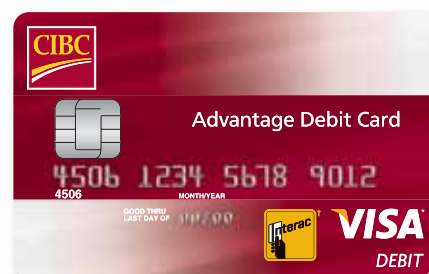
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Yoel Chacon smokes his cigar in the Conde de Villanueva hotel, home to one of the city's most popular cigar rooms, in Havana, Cuba. The Conde de Villanueva will continue to let guests smoke indoors. FRANKLIN REYES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Havana: the final frontier of smoking

Cuba. Old Havana restaurants are finally starting to enforce a smoking ban put in place in 2005

It's a quintessentially Cuban experience: Capping off a meal with a snifter of rum and an aromatic cigar.

This Caribbean nation is renowned around the world for its pungent Cohibas, Montecristos and Romeo y Julietas, but on the island, stogie-lovers are increasingly being told to take it outside. A number of state-owned restaurants in Havana's picturesque colonial quarter have quietly gone smoke-free indoors in recent weeks as authorities there enforce a 2005 measure that has been almost universally flouted across the country.

The goal is to improve the culinary experience and safeguard the health of both diners and employees, but it's also raising eyebrows among cigar aficionados and cigarette smokers who say the right to light up is part of the tropical country's charm. Already, public smoking bans have spread to cities worldwide, from New York to Beijing.

At least nine state-run restaurants in the colonial area of Havana have banned smoking inside since the end of 2011, and more will do so in the near future, said Tanny Sibori, publicity manager for Habaguanex, the state-run business that administers tourist con-

cerns in Old Havana.

Only sealed, air-conditioned dining rooms are affected, and Habaguanex restaurants all still have open-air spaces for smokers. There is no word on a ban for bars or nightclubs, and the owner of one of Havana's private restaurants said he had received no guidance on whether the "paladares" must follow suit.

"There is a campaign at the world level in which we should also take part, where we are helping to create healthier spaces even for the smokers themselves," Sibori said.

Diners are still welcome to enjoy their after-dinner cigar — just move to the outside tables, please, where you can people-watch on the quaint, cobblestone plazas and enjoy the balmy, tropical breeze.

"Cuba has an eternal summer, and you can take advantage of the terraces and exterior spaces," Sibori said.

Still, such a thought is anathema to some in Cuba.

The island has an ingrained tobacco culture and is proud of its world-famous cigar industry, which brought in \$401 million in sales last year. When other goods were in scarce supply, cigarettes continued for years to be part of islanders' monthly ration books.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smokers react

Tourists fuming over ban

"No-smoking areas? It's incredible!" said Michael Kuntze, a 59-year-old German day-care manager who was savouring a long cigar and sipping rum and cola in the Hotel Conde de Villanueva, home to one of Havana's most popular cigar rooms.

Kuntze and six other smokers from Hamburg were on a nine-day tobacco tour, sampling more than three cigars daily and selecting 50 each to bring home.

"That (no-smoking ordinances) is what we have in Europe, in Germany, but we don't want this here," he said, as aromatic smoke rose from the thick ash at the end of his stogie. "This is why we are here. Not to sit inside a small smoking lounge, no. Never."

Officials say the Conde de Villanueva, a favourite of cigar tourists like Kuntze, will continue to let guests and diners smoke.

Quoted

"The best thing to do is give them (cigars) to your enemy" Former Cuban president Fidel Castro who himself quit smoking his trademark Cohiba cigars in 1985 on orders from his doctors.



Smoking cigars is a quintessentially Cuban experience.

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Getting chummy with sand sharks in the Bahamas

Abaco Islands. Fresh fish washed down with some Kalik beer is the perfect way to enjoy a lazy afternoon in a tropical paradise

MIKE DOJC
life@metronews.ca

Radio Abaco is the lone station on this sun-drenched north-western swath of the Bahamian archipelago with reception as gin clear as the invitingly warm waters.

The hosts are having a spirited debate on the merits of sweethearting, the colloquial expression for the practice of married men keeping another woman on the side.

"You're not having an affair, you have a sweetheart," explains my guide Ambrose. "It's infamous here. Men go to work and when they get paid they divvy up what is for their wife and family and to take care of the bills and such and then



Brave members of Mike Dojc's party fed scraps to the sharks. MIKE DOJC/METRO

what is for the sweetheart, so he has two homes."

The philandering food for thought creates a people-watching guessing game 'wife or sweetheart' while ferrying to Elbow Cay to visit Abaco's candy-striped lighthouse and touring Hope Town, a charming outpost settled by British loyalists following the American Revolution. Among the colourful abodes is the Wyannie Malone Museum, well worth popping in to soak up some island history. After mis-

sing an afternoon ferry back to Marsh Harbour we joke that we might as well go trolling for sweethearts while waiting an hour for the next boat to arrive.

The next morning, a chase is definitely on, albeit one with much fewer moral repercussions. After a 20-minute ride from Green Turtle Cay skipped by Lincoln Jones, the proprietor of Lincoln's Island Adventures, we baited our hooks with a chopped up minnow and went fishing for yellow-tailed snapper. I got lucky with my virgin

Quick tip

- **Eat.** The Bahamian Isle is famous for its abundance of conch. Try conch salad, a cerviche preparation, garnished with tomatoes and cucumbers as well as cracked conch, conch soup, conch fritters and conch sashimi.

cast. After a spirited fight that nearly jerked me overboard, I reel her in, free her of the hook and toss her into the well. Before we drop anchor at Munk Cay for lunch I'll catch three more.

I saunter down the bleach-white sands and wade into knee-depth waters to examine the dozen-odd orangey starfish speckling the ocean's floor. Braver members of our party feed fish scraps to the nearby sand sharks. Meanwhile Lincoln and his son Marcus cook up our catch, which we wash down with Kalik beer and a jug of pre-mixed Goombay Smash cocktails.



The waters are as clear as the radio reception on the Abaco Islands MIKE DOJC/METRO





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Lynn Crawford makes Easter dinner easy for busy families

The Easter-long weekend is fast approaching and what does that mean?

Scavenger hunts, egg painting, bunny appearances, chocolate (too much chocolate) and of course, the big family dinner.

In keeping with the spirit of a holiday steeped in fun traditions, Inniskillin Wines and Chef Lynn Crawford created a long-weekend menu that packs just as much playfulness.

"This menu was important to me because Easter dinner has been a long-standing tradition in the Crawford family, and so has Easter brunch. I wanted to create something that was reminiscent of home. After all, that's what this weekend is all about — cooking, eating, and enjoying great company," says Crawford.

This ham pairs perfect with Riesling or Pinot Noir.

1. Preheat the oven to 300 F.

2. Put the ham in a large

roasting pan, skin side up. Using a sharp knife, score the ham with cuts across the skin, about 2-inches apart and 1/2-inch deep. Cut diagonally down the slashes to form a diamond pattern.

3. Season the ham generously with salt and pepper. Mix the herbs, mustard and oil to make a paste. Rub the herb mixture over the ham, being sure to get the flavour into all the slits. Bake the ham for 2 hours.

4. For the glaze, place a saucepan over medium heat. Add the chunks of butter, apples, shallots, garlic apple juice, brown sugar, water, and spices. Slowly cook the liquid down to a chunky, syrupy glaze, about 40 to 50 minutes.

5. Pour the apple mustard glaze over the ham and continue to cook for about 1 1/2 hours, basting with the juices every 30 minutes. Set the ham on a cutting board to rest before carving.

Ingredients

- 1 (8 to 10-pound) smoked ham, bone-in, skin on
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp thyme leaves, chopped
- 2 tbsp sage leaves, chopped
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped
- 3 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, cut in chunks
- 3 Gala apples, cored and thinly sliced
- 3-4 shallots, peeled, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 cups apple cider
- 1/2 cup Inniskillin Riesling
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 tsp whole cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks

PEGGED AS CANADA'S TOP CHEF, LYNN CRAWFORD IS KNOWN FOR HER HIT FOOD NETWORK SHOW 'PITCHIN' IN', NOW IN ITS FOURTH SEASON/ INNISKILLIN WINES

Honey Mustard Ham with Apples & Inniskillin Riesling



This recipe serves eight to 10 people. PROVIDED

Drink of the week

Skyy Easter Bonnet

The SKYY Easter Bonnet is a refreshing blend of smooth SKYY Vodka, Campari, tropical guava puree, freshly squeezed lime juice and sweetened with a hint of simple syrup.

Top it with a flower and it's as pretty as your favourite Easter bonnet!

- 1 1/2 parts SKYY Vodka
- 1/2 part Campari
- 1 part Guava puree (nectar or juice can also be

substituted)
• 1/2 part freshly squeezed lime juice
• 1/2 part simple syrup

Pour ingredients in a shaker filled with ice. Shake and serve with a cocktail glass. SKYY SPIRITS



Pair your meal with Macaroni and Cheddar Casserole



This recipe serves four to six. PROVIDED

1. Heat your oven to 350° F. Lightly butter a two-quart

2. Melt 2 tablespoons of butter and toss with the bread crumbs, cheese and parsley.

3. To make the sauce, make a cut into the onion, about 1 inch deep, and slide the bay leaf into the slit. Stick the cloves into the onion. Put the milk and onions into a saucepot over medium heat.

4. Meanwhile in a separate pan, over low heat, melt the butter and then add the flour. Stir together and cook the roux without browning for about 3 minutes. Remove from heat.

5. When the milk is hot, pour some into the roux, stirring until the milk is thoroughly blended in. Return this to the remaining milk, and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring frequently.

6. Add the mustard and season with salt and pepper. Remove the onion, bay leaves and cloves. Add 2 cups of cheese and continue cooking, over low heat, stirring, until cheese is melted.

7. Cook the macaroni in a large pot of salted boiling

water. Drain well and add to the sauce. Add the parsley and mix together well. Transfer to the prepared baking dish and top with seasoned bread crumbs.

8. Sprinkle over the casserole and bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until browned and bubbly.

LYNN CRAWFORD/ INNISKILLIN WINES

Ingredients

For the topping

- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 cup Panko bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup Parmesan
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped
- 5 cups elbow macaroni
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, peeled and cut in half
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 cloves
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 3 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk
- 2 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 2 1/2 cups Cheddar cheese, grated
- 2 cup smoked ham, cooked and diced
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper

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Never underestimate the power that the word 'volunteer' can have on your resumé. ISTOCK

A guide to giving back

So you want to be a volunteer. Follow these steps to find a cause befitting to your career aspirations

ELIZABETH BAISLEY
TalentEgg.ca

- Research the causes or issues that are important to you: Find or create an organization that focuses on issues you're passionate about.

- Consider the skills you have to offer: Share skills that you use all day at work or that you have gained from a hobby or other experiences. Organizations requiring volunteers usually offer some training, but excessive training is costly and defeats the

Questions

What to ask an organization you are interested in volunteering for:

- Will you have to sign a liability release form so that the organization is not liable for any accidents you might have? This is especially important if you will be driving.

- How many hours will you be expected to commit each week?
- How long will your training be?
- Is there a time commitment in terms of months?
- Will you need a police check?

purpose of hiring volunteers.

- Seek opportunities where you can learn something new: This can be exciting, rewarding, and good for career development.

- Combine your goals: Look for volunteer opportunities that will also help you

achieve your other goals for your life, whether personal or professional.

- Don't over-commit your schedule: Be up front about how many hours you can commit to the organization. You don't want to frustrate the organization or overwhelm yourself.

Applications and interviews are good things

You might be interviewed and expected to fill out an application, just like for a job. This is done to match you to tasks based on your skills and to ensure that you're committed.

It's probably a good thing that an organization does this, so don't let it scare you away. You are much more likely to find a meaningful volunteer position at an organization that puts time and planning into hiring their volunteers.

ELIZABETH BAISLEY STUDIES HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMAN DIVERSITY AT WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY'S BRANTFORD CAMPUS.

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Student Voice

Give a little, get a little

Heather Mundle
Recent graduate from Carleton University's mass communications program and Algonquin College's public relations program.
TalentEgg.ca

The summer search for jobs is something all of us students are facing right now. It's April and most of us are getting squirmy for when the next big break is going to come.

As a public relations student and graduate, I have learned that opportunities are not just thrown at you; you need to search them out for yourself and be willing to jump quickly into a new venture.

After attending Carleton University for a Bachelor of Arts in mass communications, I went with leaps and bounds to Algonquin College for public relations. The combination of university taught me how to think while the practical, hands-on experience of the college setting is a push in the right direction toward a career.

At Algonquin, I also learned the value of volunteering and sharing your experience with others. I made volunteer-



Heather Mundle PROVIDED

ing my only job where I have tried out public relations, marketing work, event planning and social media work. It is so great to lend a helping hand, gain some valuable experience and meet some wonderful friends and mentors along the way.

I think that in the university setting there needs to be more of a focus on volunteering in the community. It is one of the best ways to learn more about your field of study in a real world setting instead of asking yourself, "Now what am I going to do with this degree?"

Volunteering allows you to test out an area of interest before you are ready to make the big leap from student to career.

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Sashay your way into the fashion industry, one garment at a time

Success in style.

Author Michele Granger explains how to knock down fashion's front door

BRUCE WALSH

Metro World News in Philadelphia

Missouri State professor Michele Granger wrote the book on breaking into the fashion industry — three times over. Fashion Entrepreneurship: Retail Business Planning and The Fashion Intern are both in their second editions.

Plus, Fashion: The Industry and Its Careers is a must-read for anyone curious about a career in the field.

What's a good first step for breaking into the fashion industry?

Retail work — especially for kids that are still in high school. You get exposed to the products, management and sales.

For college students, it's a step they can take before they move in at a higher level after graduation.

What degrees should undergrads consider?

There are really two primary avenues. One is a degree in fashion design or fashion product development; the other is fashion merchandising. Design skews toward the artistic, creative people. Merchandising is more of the business end.

The fashion industry seems to embody a myriad of industries — from finance to creative design.

Fashion is a lifestyle. It runs the gamut: what you put in your house, your stationary, what you put on your body.

Add to that an incred-

Look good, do good?

Is there room for altruism in a fashion-industry career?

- "There are more and more non-profits and others within the industry doing wonderful work: Housing Works and TOMS are just two. A lot of students say, 'I don't want to be part of an industry that's frivolous and wasteful.' We make sure to cover moral and ethical issues in our coursework at Missouri State, and any good program should do that."

ible amount of news and journalism about the industry from publications and websites. If you figure out your skill set, you'll likely find a direction within the industry.



A part-time retail job is a great way to see if you'll measure up in the fashion world. ISTOCK



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Many steel-toed boots to fill in trades sector

Calling all females.

Organizations across Canada are helping women acquire work in skilled trades

Nicole Martini is an ordinary 24-year-old: she spends week-ends with friends, enjoys the outdoors and recently moved into her own house. However, there is nothing ordinary about her career path.

Martini is a third-year plumber apprentice and is among a growing number of women embracing non-traditional careers in the skilled trades.

After working part-time in retail for two years, she enrolled in a skilled trades exploration program offered at Okanagan College through the Women in Trades Training (WITT) initiative.

The program paid for her tuition and gave her a transportation subsidy. By the end



There's plenty of work to be done. ISTOCK

of the course, Martini knew she wanted to be a plumber. "I loved what I was learning and knew it was the perfect career for me," she says.

WITT connects unemployed or low-skilled women to training opportunities across the province.

According to Erin Johnston, manager of supply

initiatives with ITA, many women are discovering that a career in the trades offers increased job satisfaction, independence and higher pay. Johnston also notes more employers are sponsoring women apprentices in anticipation of expected labour shortages.

"As more tradespeople

Help wanted

"As more tradespeople retire, some industries are already struggling with a shortage of skilled workers. Our training programs provide women with the skills and training they need to fill these jobs."

Erin Johnston, manager of supply initiatives with ITA

retire, some industries are already struggling with a shortage of skilled workers," she says. "Our training programs provide women with the skills and training they need to fill these jobs."

The programs remove barriers that keep women out of the trades by providing tuition, access to childcare and subsidies for transportation or tools.

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SPORTS

Quoted

"In hindsight, I realize what I said was inappropriate and wrong, and I want to apologize to the Penguins organization and their fans."

NBC and CBC hockey analyst Mike Milbury, who found himself under fire Tuesday, a day after a rant against Pittsburgh Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby. Milbury ripped Crosby on a Philadelphia radio station Monday, calling out the Pens captain for his role in a game-ending line brawl Sunday between the Penguins and Flyers. He labelled Crosby "a punk" and "little goody two shoes" and also referred to "his 35th concussion."

"I don't know what he's looking for, if he's looking for attention. I don't know what it is. I really don't know where that came from. He's pretty good at twisting things around, that's for sure."

Sidney Crosby on Milbury before Pittsburgh's game against Boston on Tuesday.

On the web



Long overlooked and underfunded, the renamed Miami Marlins had top billing Tuesday as they played their first game at brand new Marlins Park against the defending World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals to open the 2012 MLB regular season. Scan the code for the story

Golf

Injury forces Johnson out of Masters

Dustin Johnson withdrew from this week's Masters on Tuesday because of a lingering back injury that he aggravated while lifting a jet ski last week, his agent said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NHL

Habs to examine Price's headaches

Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price will be examined by a team doctor on Wednesday to determine whether the headaches he is suffering are a sign of something more serious.

The Canadiens have not confirmed a report that



Carey Price
RYAN REMIOW/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Price has a concussion.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Saints' appeal to be heard on Thursday

Saints head coach Sean Payton, GM Mickey Loomis and assistant head coach Joe Vitt are set to have their appeals heard Thursday on punishments for their roles in New Orleans' bounty system. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NHL

"Maybe they (NHL) need Hollywood in the playoffs."

Edmonton coach Tom Renney on why his Oilers didn't get calls in their favour in a 2-0 loss to Los Angeles on Monday. The NHL fined Renney \$10,000 US on Tuesday for the comments.

Time to pull plug on Iggy era



The longer the Flames hold onto Jarome Iginla, the less they can expect to see in return for their captain in a potential trade.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES FILE



THE HOCKEY NEWS

Brian Costello
calgary@metronews.ca

Why is it the people who think it's a mistake to trade Jarome Iginla use the argument that "blowing up" the Calgary Flames is an irrational way of rebuilding a franchise? The two don't have to go hand in hand. In my mind, they are mutually exclusive.

Trading Iginla now and securing a good young player, top prospect and high draft pick (or at least two of these three) is the sensible way to retool a team that is spinning its wheels in the lower middle-third of the NHL? Hanging on to Iginla for another year only eats into his trade value. Hanging onto Iginla until he's ready to retire isn't at all business-savvy and is just damned silly.

When GM Jay Feaster replaced Darryl Sutter, he made it clear Iginla wasn't going anywhere, that the face of the franchise was going to be part of the turnaround. The logic made sense at the time because the Flames had a terrific finish to 2010-11, and had Feaster been successful in landing Brad Richards as a UFA, Calgary surely would've made the playoffs

this season.

But, with Iginla soon to be 35, in the final year of his contract and with no interesting UFA centres on the market this July, can we expect 2012-13 to be any different?

We do know that Iginla is slowing down. He's not nearly as quick on the rush, his button-hooks in the offensive zone often lead to turnovers and it's a rarity that he can physically dominate during a shift. It's also no big secret Iginla isn't the most defensively responsible forward out there, either. Could it be he's nearing the end, sad as it is to say, of his shelf life?

Prudent management knows loyalty can take you only so far in sports. Look at Mats Sundin. Look at Peyton Manning. Maybe the Flames would be a better team without Iginla. Getting rid of him doesn't mean the ship is being blown up. It means the team wants to try a new direction, something other than out of the playoffs three straight years.

Look at how much the Columbus Blue Jackets are asking for 28-year-old overrated Rick Nash — an effective NHLer, two top prospects and a first round pick. If the Flames can get two or three of those elements for Iginla, the tough decision should be made this summer.

Curling. Canada remains unbeaten as competition for world title heats up

Canada's Glenn Howard has won in blowout fashion and had a few close calls at the world men's curling championship.

He has come through every time and remains a favourite to play for his fourth world title this weekend in Basel, Switzerland.

Howard improved his record to 7-0 Tuesday, winning a 7-6 nail-biter over Switzerland before posting an 8-5 win over Denmark. Both opponents are playoff long shots but still gave Howard a stiff challenge ahead of upcoming games against powerhouses Sweden and Scotland.

Howard said the quality of opposition is so high at the competition that every game

By the numbers

74%

Glenn Howard shot just 74 per cent against the Swiss but teammates Wayne Middaugh, Brent Laing and Craig Savill each shot over 95 per cent.

is a test.

"When other teams play well, you can only do so much," he said. "Everybody keeps thinking you're supposed to blow people out. You can't — if the other team makes a lot of shots, that's the way it works."

"The bottom line is you just try to make one more than the next guy and get those wins."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Champions League

Messi's pair leads Barcelona to semis

Lionel Messi swept holder Barcelona into the Champions League semifinals for the fifth successive year on Tuesday while becoming the competition's most prolific scorer in a single season.

The Argentina forward scored a pair of first-half penalty kicks and Andres Iniesta added another goal after the break to give Barcelona a 3-1 victory over AC Milan following a 0-0 draw in Italy.

Messi's 14th Champions League goal this season surpassed Ruud van Nistelrooy's tally in the 2002-03 campaign.

Bayern Munich joined fellow four-time champion Barcelona in the semifinals. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NCAA. Kentucky team returns to adoring fans

Another championship banner has been unfurled at Rupp Arena.

Kentucky's basketball team returned home to its fans Tuesday, after beating Kansas 67-59 Monday night to win the school's eighth NCAA title.

Blue-clad fans erupted into deafening cheers as the team pulled into the packed arena aboard a sleek blue bus emblazoned with "national champions."

It was a joyous curtain call for a team led by a talented group of freshmen and sophomores. The NBA likely beckons next for several of them.

Coach John Calipari pumped his fist and raised his arms in triumph as he basked in the cheers.

"You know why we won the national title? Folks, we have



Kentucky coach John Calipari.

JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

the best players and we have the best team," he said as the crowd erupted.

The rally punctuated a raucous few days in Lexington as the Wildcats marched toward the national title.

After the championship game, numerous small fires were set, dozens were arrested and one man was wounded by gunfire as fans again filled the streets near campus. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Hyundai full of surprises



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Suspension

To accommodate the added power, Hyundai's engineers worked on the Coupe's suspension. That involved recalibrating the dampers and adding beefier anti-roll bars, but one of the cooler modifications is the addition of a "sound induction tube" that pipes in the exhaust notes for the enjoyment of the occupants.

Zero to 60

According to Hyundai, the revitalized V6 can propel the GT to 60 m.p.h. (96 km/h) from zero in the "lower five-second range," but the company hasn't yet divulged times for the four-cylinder 2.0 model. The Coupe also has a more aggressive nose piece featuring Hyundai's open-mouth grille.

2013 Genesis Coupe

- **Type.** Two-door, rear-wheel-drive sport coupe.
- **Engines (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (274); 3.8-litre DOHC V6 (348).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 10.4/6.4 (2.0, AT).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** \$28,100.

Engines

Both the base 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbo and optional 3.8-litre V6 have been power-enhanced and are accompanied by all-new optional eight-speed automatic transmissions with manual paddle shifters.

Updated six-speed manual gearboxes are standard.



The four-cylinder is up 64 horsepower to 274.

Review. The Genesis coupe has rear-wheel drive and its V6 puts the boots to the Nissan 370Z, V6 Mustang, Camaro and Challenger

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

None of this five- or 10-horsepower stuff, or dressing it up with doilies and stickers.

In case you missed it, Hyundai's rear-drive four-seat coupe arrived for the 2010 model year and shares the Genesis name with its big brother four-door sedan. The

similarities end right about there, though.

While the sedan is all about cruising in style, the Coupe gets its kicks well away from the interstate, tackling two-lane back roads or, for some, smoking the tires and hanging the tail out on a closed autocross loop.

These and other activities will be significantly enhanced with the spring launch of the 2013 Coupe. Its

arrival is indeed timely as this most unique Hyundai faces off against three new sporty competitors, including the front-wheel drive 2012 Mini Cooper Coupe plus the 2013 Scion FR-S and closely identical Subaru BRZ, which are both rear-wheel-drivers.

All four import-based cars form part of a "thin" market where sales volumes are low compared with sedans, wagons and pickup trucks and

where each and every dotted-line conquest is critical.

Hyundai has bumped up the turbo Coupe's base price by about \$1,600 to \$28,100, while the 3.8 GT sees a \$4,000 increase to \$38,600.

That makes both editions a bit less financially appealing, but likely won't dissuade rapid-transit seekers who also appreciate an attractively packaged ride and the additional power.

When Hyundai wants to upgrade, it doesn't mess around.

5

DRIVE

Top Gear

Trailer travels in trunk

Motorcycle or ATV trailers are handy to have around, but they take up valuable space in your driveway or garage. Or do they? Trailer in a Bag has developed a product that weighs about 60 kilograms, will fit inside a duffel bag and can be stored in your vehicle when not in use. When assembled (without tools, by the way), you can tow up to two motorcycles or one ATV, up to a total of 2,000 pounds (910 kilograms). Options include running boards, fenders and a front-wheel chock to more securely hold your prized two-wheeler. Prices begin at \$1,195 US for single-motorcycle models and \$2,195 US for dual units and \$2,595 US for ATV carriers. Fenders sell for an extra \$150. Go to trailerinabag.com for more information and to order, or call 800-278-8387.

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When metal gets compressed, priorities change very quickly

Autopilot



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

I'm not the first person to be driving along in perfect safety and serenity to be suddenly broadsided by another vehicle, and vaulted into that country called accident-land.

So many of you know what that feels like.

One moment you're driving along listening to Anne Murray or Black Sabbath, and the next there's a huge BANG. Instead of ending up where you planned, your day suddenly shifts to one populated by police, ambulance attendants, mangled machinery, tow trucks, witnesses and rental cars. A lot of cell phoning. A lot of standing around by the side of the road.

And a lot of going over the accident in your head.

Since it happened, a few months ago, I must have replayed that tape hundreds of times. I can't remember what socks I put on this morning, but every detail of those few moments before and after impact are available to me anytime I want in full HD. And I'm always surprised at how much information I was able to take in during those brief moments, like the metal got compressed, and so did time.

The tape goes something like this... A vehicle suddenly appears in my left periphery... What the?... That car shouldn't be there... What's going on?... Slam on the brakes... BANG... Diane screaming... The Mazda 626 deflected into the ditch... Can't believe we're not in pain...

We were shaken, but not internally stirred.

Moments earlier we were going dead straight on a light-



Thankfully, nobody was seriously injured. CONTRIBUTED

ly populated two-lane in the country, mid-morning in bright sunlight, en route to Ontario's Blue Mountain ski resort, to meet up with our friends Dave and Olga.

The car that hit us, had just turned left into our path, from a stop sign, intending to travel the same direction as us. That car's right front fender contacted our left front fender.

After making sure we weren't leaking, I ran out to yell at the other driver. I had to wait a bit. His car was veering erratically into a field, about 100 metres away from us. As soon as his car stopped, he scrambled out and ran up to us in the snow to see if we were all right. I was yelling at him most of the way.

A young guy. Said he didn't see us.

In retrospect, I should have asked if he was all right before

Quote

"When push comes to shove, as it does in vehicle accidents, you are once again made aware of how far down the priority list are vehicles from the thing at the very top of the priority list — people."

yelling at him. That's one of the things I would do differently if I had to do it over again, which I won't. It's booked in that line of time nobody gets to change.

A lot of friendly folk stopped to help. Everybody on the scene, including police and ambulance attendants, couldn't have been more helpful or concerned. When push

comes to shove, as it does in vehicle accidents, you are once again made aware of how far down the priority list are vehicles from the thing at the very top of the priority list — people.

The policeman on the scene said we were lucky. If we struck a bit earlier, we would have taken the blow by the driver's door. If we struck a bit later, we would have run into the back of him. There was a lot of meaty metal where we got together, and each car could deflect a lot of the energy by heading off in various, non-conflicting directions.

Our car was totalled. For someone who just lost a really decent car that I liked a lot, and would be really hard to replace at its going rate, I felt pretty good. Everyone, including me, was walking around, alive. Being alive is good.

Driving Force. Timing belt? Timing chain? You need to know!

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Two birds, one stone

- During timing belt replacement, you may be asked about replacing the water pump, too. You're not being ripped off. Water pumps wear out also, and since it has to be removed to reach the belt and you're already paying for that labour, it's relatively cheaper to get it all done at once.

Your car's engine contains hundreds of moving parts, all of which must be synchronized to run properly. That includes the valves, which use either a timing chain or timing belt — and it's important to know which one your engine uses.

While a chain is virtually maintenance-free, a timing belt should be changed at a predetermined mileage as a preventative measure.

Engines contain pistons that move up and down, turning a crankshaft to produce a spinning motion that eventually turns the wheels. The pistons are powered by gasoline.

The fuel comes in and the exhaust escapes through valves, which open and close via contact with a camshaft. The timing chain/belt runs between the crankshaft and camshaft, turning the camshaft at exactly the right speed. It's hidden behind a cover; the rubber belt you see when you open the hood is not the timing belt.

Whether it's a belt or chain depends on the model and the manufacturer.

"We don't use timing belts anymore," says Rob Murdoch, national manager of technical services for Mazda Canada.

"There's a shift (in the industry) from belts to chains because they tend to last longer."

Timing belts, which are made from rubber and fibre, became popular because they are quieter and weigh less than metal chains — important as automakers shave grams off components for improved fuel

economy. But they do eventually wear out and can break. If this happens, the engine won't run.

On some higher-compression engines, the valves and pistons have such tight tolerances that a broken belt could result in the parts crashing together, creating serious engine damage.

These so-called "interference" engines are also becoming more common as automakers work to improve efficiency, but they're now more likely to use a chain.

"That's another reason why manufacturers are shifting from belts to chains," Murdoch says. "Consumers have concerns about the cost of maintenance."

Depending on the vehicle, the recommended time to change a timing belt is anywhere from about 90,000 to 150,000 km — before it breaks.

It can be a pricey repair on many models, since it's hard to access and requires a lot of time.

If you're not sure what type your car has, ask the dealership, or look in the maintenance section of the owner's manual to see if it's mentioned.



Timing chains tend to last longer than timing belts. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

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The R18 e-tron's look, powertrain and carbon-fibre construction fall within endurance-racing rules for its class. PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASE MEDIA

Racing with reality

Auto Know. Audi and Nissan are examples of automakers that think they can still shape production cars with their on-track efforts

JEFF
MELNYCHUK
Wheelbase Media

A hockey player has his stick and his skates to slice the ice. A sprinter has his cleats to put the power to the track. A swimmer needs goggles, nose plugs and cap for a sprint of another kind. And a tennis pro's racquet has to have just the right sweet spot.

For these sports, it's not a lot of specialized hardware, especially when compared to auto racing.

It takes millions of dollars of equipment and technical expertise to race professionally and keep the wheels rolling all year, from track to track. There's support staff, pit crews, logistics, private jets, jumbo jets, giant car haulers and tires and fuel. Lots of tires and fuel ... and engines.

In Formula One, for example, yearly budgets run in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

That's obviously on the top end of the scale, but it's extravagant corporate spending and consumption for a sport that seems to have such a narrow scope of purpose. And this begs the question: is racing relevant at all, or is it merely wasteful, socially irresponsible and all about ego-stroking a select group of mischievous playboys?

NASCAR, for example, only this year adopted fuel injection over carburetion and it still uses four-speed manual transmissions and V8 engines. That was fine in the 1960s, but production "stock" cars today run four-cylinder engines and anywhere from six- to eight speeds in their transmissions.

You know the rapidly tightening government regulations that target automakers to clean up their tailpipes? The same legislation that's changing the very cars we drive? It has no impact or relevance here.

Sure, racing can be exciting — at times — to watch, but if one of the many justifications for this conspicuous consumption is relevant engineering that transfers to production cars to make them more durable, safer and more efficient, then where is it?

For that to happen, racing's rules need to encourage experimentation and not series after series where all cars are practically identical.

One automaker that's pushing that envelope is Audi. Its new lightweight R18 e-tron endurance racer uses a V6 turbo-diesel and a fly-wheel hybrid system that the company says it wants to test in upcoming Audi road cars. A similar system is in play with Porsche's racing cars, but the R18 is the first such hybrid to use a diesel. Racing that connects with reality seems to be the goal.

"Audi has always consciously selected championships and categories in racing that have a close relationship to production and therefore have technical relevance for the Audi customers," says

Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich, head of Audi Motorsport. "Quattro, TFSI and TDI are three excellent examples of how motorsport has stimulated production development. A similar tendency is apparent with the e-tron quattro: we test a completely new technology on the race track before it's introduced to the Audi production line."

When the driver applies the brakes of the e-tron, electricity is generated to spin up a small flywheel. At the push of a button (above 120 km/h), the flywheel is braked to create electricity for the electric motors driving the front wheels. The diesel engine drives the rear wheels. Although the system is designed to create an extra shot of acceleration coming off corners, the burst is limited as the flywheel slows.

In a road car, the system could mean going with a smaller engine while maintaining safe levels of acceleration for overtaking and merging, without using expensive battery packs that negatively impact vehicles with their bulk and weight.

The R18 e-tron makes its competition debut at a six-hour endurance race in Belgium and will compete at the 24 hours of Le Mans endurance race in France in June. And that's where you'll also find one of the most unique racing machines of all time: the Deltawing, a.k.a. the Batmobile ... obviously.

The comic-book-looking project is intended to show the world that a car, with no rules placed on it, can be as quick — or nearly as quick — as the top contenders in the field but with half the weight,

half the power and half the tire and fuel consumption.

It looks like a movie car, but the DeltaWing is no prop. With most of the weight over the rear wheels, the front tires bear less of the turning load while cornering. The front tires are only 10 centimetres wide — barely the width of a motorcycle tire — and



placed a couple of feet apart. This provides the bullet-nose profile that the team says cuts aerodynamic drag by half.

The body is made from carbon fibre and the engine is a turbocharged 1.6-litre gasoline four-cylinder supplied by Nissan, which joined principals Dan Gurney, Don Panoz and Highcroft Racing, all of whom are experienced racers.

"As motor-racing rule books have become tighter over time, racing cars look more and more similar and the technology used has had

less and less relevance to road-car development," said Andy Palmer, Executive Vice President of Nissan.

Relevant racing? That's up to the rule makers, it seems.

The DeltaWing will not compete at Le Mans, but will run the event as an experimental vehicle with the number "0." If it fares well, it could help shape future cars.

"All of the stuff we learn from this project we are going to be able to cross into road-car development," said Darren Cox, general manager, Nissan Europe.



The "Batmobile" during testing.

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'Flawless?' Some 911 owners think so

Second Gear.

2005 to 2008
Porsche 911

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

Most buy the Porsche 911 for its performance, heritage, rich racing history, and for the status implied by its badge.

Delivery of a high-style, high-status and high-performance driving experience is part of the package.

The so-called "997" generation of this machine was available from 2005 to 2008, inclusive. It's a unique and celebrated sports car, but certainly not one for every buyer's budget.

Common Issues

As with any high performance vehicle, parts and labour are pricey. Even changing tires and struts will run well into the thousands. Reports of leaky engine seals and niggling electrical issues have been made, so a full mechanical checkup and inspection of all on-board features should be considered mandatory. Note that reports of engine failure on earlier models in this generation aren't uncommon. Apparently warped heads or a bad block design were to blame. An extended powertrain warranty isn't a bad idea, if available.

Seek a Porsche mechanic's opinion as to whether or not the vehicle has been abused or neglected, and question any signs of excessive wear and unusual noises.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Engine



Look for rear-mounted flat-six engines on all models, ranging from 325 to 530 horsepower, depending on the model selected. Automatic or manual transmission were available, as were rear or all-wheel drive.

What Owners Like



Everyday usability, performance, style, status and practicality are all highly rated by 911 owners. Fuel mileage and relative comfort are other positives. Descriptors like "flawless" or "perfect" come up frequently in owners forums.

What Owners Dislike



Complaints are minor, though they mainly deal with limited trunk and rear seat space, and expensive factory options.

Verdict

The pleasure of driving a 911 should outweigh the potential costs — but don't let your guard down when shopping. Patience and research are key to success here.

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I believe I can fly, I believe I can touch the sky (and the roads too)

Automotive marvel.

Flying car gets closer to reality with test flight, introduction to customers at New York show

Flying cars aren't just science fiction anymore.

Woburn, Mass.-based Terrafugia Inc. said Monday that its prototype flying car has completed its first flight, bringing the company closer to its goal of selling the flying car within the next year. The vehicle — dubbed the Transition — has two seats, four wheels and wings that fold up so it can be driven like a car.

Last month, it flew at 1,400 feet for eight minutes. Commercial jets fly at 35,000 feet.

Around 100 people have already put down a \$10,000 deposit to get a Transition

when they go on sale, and those numbers will likely rise after Terrafugia introduces the Transition to the public this week at the New York Auto Show. But don't expect it to show up in too many driveways. It's expected to cost \$279,000.

And it won't help if you're stuck in traffic. The car needs a runway.

The flying car has always had a special place in the American imagination. Inventors have been trying to make them since the 1930s, according to Robert Mann, an airline industry analyst who owns R.W. Mann & Co. in Port Washington, N.Y.

But Mann thinks Terrafugia has come closer than anyone to making the flying car a reality. The government has already granted the company's request to use special tires and glass that are lighter than normal automotive ones, to make it easier for the vehicle to fly.

The government has also temporarily exempted the Transition from the requirement to equip vehicles with electronic stability control, which would add about six pounds to the vehicle. The Transition is currently going through a battery of automotive crash tests to make sure it meets federal safety standards.

Mann said Terrafugia was helped by the Federal Aviation Administration's decision five years ago to create a separate set of standards for light sport aircraft.

The standards govern the size and speed of the plane and licensing requirements for pilots, which are less restrictive than requirements for pilots of larger planes. Terrafugia says an owner would need to pass a test and complete 20 hours of flying time to be able to fly the Transition, a relatively low hurdle for pilots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This photo provided by Terrafugia Inc. shows the company's prototype flying car, dubbed the Transition, during its first flight. TERRAFUGIA.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ANGRY

ANXIOUS

EDGY

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myself
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Paying attention to those feelings is part of dealing with your mental health. The more you look after it, the healthier your life will be. Sadly, some people live with those feelings every day. Even worse, they must live with the stigma and lack of support that goes with it. Mental health in Canada must change. It will take all of us to make it happen. Show that it matters to you, your family and your country.

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partnersformentalhealth



Dual exhausts on a family car. Beautiful. JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

A muscle sedan in disguise

Review.

2012 Nissan Maxima

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

There's an interesting sticker on the rear side window of the Nissan Maxima that says "Four Door Sports Car." Interesting, if nothing else — as 'real' sports cars usually have two doors, weigh less than 3,600 pounds and can't accommodate a family of four or five.

At first, things look more stately and restrained than sporty.

Maxima has no spoiler. There's no hood scoop. It's not low to the ground, and it doesn't even have a loud exhaust. It's also front-wheel drive — where most of the world's highest-performing sports cars aren't.

And the tester was painted brown. I've never seen a brown sports car before and you probably haven't either.

There's some sleeper sportiness though — you've just got to look a little. High-performance xenon lighting, brake ducts, dual exhausts and big wheels were on board. Sporty touches inside include push-button engine start, paddle shifters

and a 260 km/h speedometer.

Thanks to an award-winning V6 powerplant, that speedometer gets moving in a jiffy when drivers request it. Under Maxima's hood is a 3.5-litre V6 from Nissan's highly acclaimed VQ engine lineup. It puts 290 horsepower on tap — and is noted for its refinement, pleasing sound, linear, high-revving power curve and overall pleasantness.

Plenty of power. Lots in fact — heck, Maxima will even torque-steer from highway speeds during full-throttle passing. The engine is smooth, eager and lovely sounding in the process.

Nissan's xTronic Continuously Variable Transmission or CVT with shift paddles is the only transmission available.

With no actual 'stepped' gears to shift, it transmits power on a smooth and uninterrupted wave.

Think snowmobile — if you've ever driven one. This type of transmission isn't a favourite among enthusiasts, but Nissan's done a great job of making it feel like a normal automatic, using the CVT technology to enhance responsiveness, and employing a lightning-fast 'simulated' manual shift mode that's fun to use.

Specs

- **Engine.** 3.5-L DOHC V6, 290 horsepower.
- **Drivetrain.** Front-wheel drive.
- **Observed Average Mileage.** 11 L / 100 km.
- **Price as Tested.** \$40,680.

Planted, stable and confident handling and a light, quick steering help round out the entertainment factor. And despite its size and weight, Maxima feels locked down onto the road in fast bends — meaning the whole chassis invites exploration of its limits once you've dropped off the kids. Powerful brakes, too.

As big family sedans go, this one's rewarding to drive either gently or hard.

Complaints? Wind and road noise were more intrusive at speed than expected. And come on, Nissan: some of us can still drive a manual transmission.

End of the day, Maxima's big draw will be a blend of family-friendly operation and a generous helping of performance served up by its powertrain and handling. Pricing from about \$38,000.

Crossword

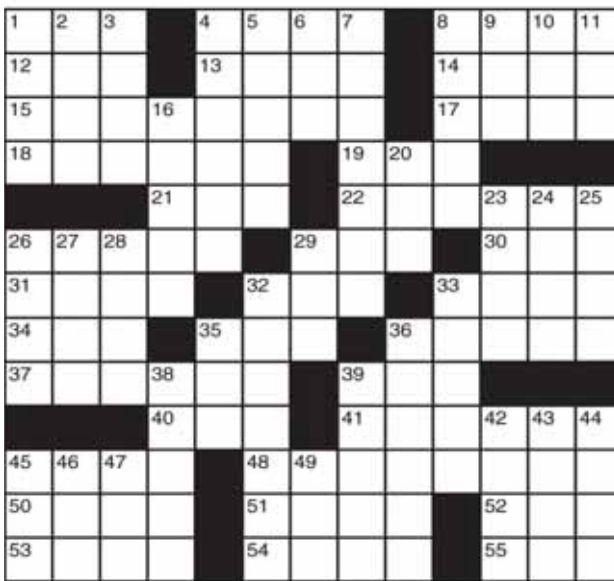
Across

- 1 Matlock's field
4 Goody-goody
8 Put together
12 Eggs
13 Top-rated
14 Pressing need
15 Football-game start
17 Opening day?
18 Tell
19 Father's Day gift
21 Nursery item
22 This way
26 Broadway backer
29 Pub order
30 Right-turn command
31 Upper House member
32 White House monogram
33 Verve
34 History chapter
35 Black-and-white seabird
36 Put forth
37 Decorate with raised work
39 Rock-concert need
40 Likely
41 Nap
45 Tarzan's clique
48 Kisser enhancement
50 Sandwich shop
51 Always
52 Cheerleader's cry
53 Thousand —, Calif.
54 Unit of force

55 Make an effort

Down

- 1 Sites
2 Shakespeare's river
3 Child of the streets
4 Beat
5 Spacious
6 Officeholders
7 "Whole exceeds sum of parts" theory
8 Countertop appliance
9 Branch
10 — good deed
11 Type measures
16 Famous
20 Bar supply
23 Eye amorously
24 Burn somewhat
25 Faxed
26 Sheltered
27 "Cheers" habitué
28 Snatch
29 Mail invitations
32 Sped
33 Vote off the island
35 Cleo's slayer
36 Political mover?
38 Refuge
39 Skiers' mecca
42 Do mailroom work
43 Autocrat
44 Wan



- 45 Big bother
46 Split — soup
47 Wapiti
49 Wall climber

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another.
Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

FT GSN TYFRPTNKKG JKDYA
GSNI DYIM. F MNLLSMD
GSN JSNKC JYKK RPYR
XSSC YNIYK PGXFAD.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER SOME BLACK
INK WAS FOUND TO BE GUILTY OF A CRIME,
THEY WOUND UP PUTTING IT IN THE PEN.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals U



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY



MAX: 5°
MIN: 3°

THURSDAY



MAX: 2°
MIN: -3°

FRIDAY



MAX: 2°
MIN: -5°



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Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20.

You are never afraid to take risks but the approaching full moon warns they must now be calculated risks, or you might just come off second best.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21.

Why are you contemplating an extreme solution for a problem that is really quite simple?

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20.

With your ruler Mercury moving in your favour again you should be focusing on realities. They can be as enjoyable as fantasies.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22.

This is not a good day to believe you can do six impossible things before breakfast. You need to know your limits.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22.

In the greater scheme of things, there is no such thing as "good" or "bad" events. It all depends on how you look at them.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22.

Use your eyes and ears today, and make sure you know what is actually going on in your world, rather than what other people tell you is going on.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22.

What you say today may not be greeted with universal acclaim but that does not matter.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21.

Raise your sights and make sure you can see the bigger picture. You'll recognize the significance soon.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21.

Take your mind off your troubles today by getting involved in a new creative activity.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan. 20.

Take time out for your own needs today and don't feel guilty if friends and family complain that you are being unsociable.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb. 18.

Someone will say something upsetting but you must not respond in kind. Just smile sweetly.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20.

Mercury, planet of the mind, turns direct in your sign today and you will notice that your problems no longer seem such a big deal.

SALLY BROMPTON



Caption Contest

"So this is how the Salmon do it!"
CRAIG

MICHAEL GOULDING, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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